

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07  
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00  
SAJ-01 NSC-05 OMB-01 EB-08 IO-13 /087 W  
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P R 021704Z MAR 77  
FM USMISSION NATO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1953  
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
USNMR SHAPE  
USLOSACLANT

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 1129

EO11652 GDS  
TAGS NATO OCON MILI AWACS  
SUBJECT NATO AEW: FURTHER FRG VIEWS

REF USNATO 1111 DTG 021105Z MAR 77

1. FRG PERMREP PAULS CALLED ON AMBASSADOR ON MARCH 2 TO INSURE THAT HIS REMARKS ON NATO AEW DURING MARCH 1 PERMREPS' LUNCHEON HAD BEEN CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD, AND TO REASSURE AMBASSADOR THAT MINISTER LEBER'S FEBRUARY 23 LETTER TO SECRETARY OF DEFENSE BROWN WAS NOT MEANT TO "KILL NATO AEW".

2. PAULS CONFIRMED THE ACCURACY OF OUR UNDERSTANDING OF HIS LUNCHEON REMARKS (PARA 3, REFTEL), AND EXPANDED ON THE FRG VIEW OF THE DESIRABILITY OF A DEFENSE MINISTERS' MEETING ON AEW. THE FRG, HE SAID, BELIEVES THAT IT WOULD BE EVEN MORE HARMFUL TO THE ALLIANCE TO HAVE SUCH A MEETING WITHOUT POSITIVE RESULTS THAN TO HAVE NO MEETING AT ALL. THE FRG VIEW OF UK MINISTER OF DEFENSE MULLEY'S PREFERENCE, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS THAT BECAUSE OF TACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS  
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STEMMING FROM DOMESTIC PRESSURES, MULLEY WANTS A DEFENSE MINISTERS' MEETING UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, EVEN IF ALL KNOW IN ADVANCE THAT IT CANNOT SUCCEED.

3. LEBER'S LETTER, PAULS SAID, WAS MEANT ONLY TO CLARIFY THE FRG POSITION AND CERTAINLY NOT TO "KILL NATO AEW". MINISTER LEBER CONTINUES TO FAVOR AEW, PAULS SAID, BUT HE NEEDS HELP. THE FRG EXPECTS THE US TO PAY RELATIVELY MORE, AND THE FRG SOMEWHAT LESS, HE SAID, THAN THE SHARES DISCUSSED MOST RECENTLY. SOME WILLINGNESS TO BE

MORE FLEXIBLE ON THE PART OF THE US COULD MAKE IT USEFUL TO HAVE ANOTHER MEETING OF FINANCIAL EXPERTS; PROGRESS DURING ANOTHER MEETING OF FINANCIAL EXPERTS COULD, IN TURN, REDUCE THE GAP WHICH SECRETARY BROWN AND MINISTER LEBER MUST ADDRESS IN THEIR FORTHCOMING MEETING, WHICH PAULS HAD HEARD WOULD OCCUR IN MID-MARCH.

4. COMMENT: WE CONTINUE TO ACCEPT AT FACE VALUE PAULS' STATEMENT THAT LEBER WANTS TO SUPPORT NATO AEW, BUT WE ARE FULLY AWARE THAT THESE STATEMENTS MIGHT SERVE, WERE PROGRESS ABORTED, TO HELP SHIFT THE BLAME FOR FAILURE FROM THE FRG TO THE US AND UK. IN THIS REGARD, WE NOTE THAT PAULS DID NOT RAISE EITHER OF THE TWO POINTS IN LEBER'S LETTER WHICH WE READ WITH DISQUIET: THE APPARENT LINKAGE OF FURTHER PROGRESS ON NATO AEW TO US ACCEPTANCE OF THE ENTIRE "PACKAGE" ON TANK HARMONIZATION AGREED BILATERALLY IN JULY 1976; AND THE INABILITY OR UNWILLINGNESS (OR BOTH) OF THE FRG TO ACCOMMODATE REPEATED UK INSISTENCE ON A DECISION ON NATO AEW NOT LATER THAN MARCH 25. END COMMENT. STRAUSSZ-HUPE

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